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No. 59

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 24, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

MEL WORTMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of a constituent and friend of mine who was a true friend and one of the great leaders of the city of Bremerton, Washington.

Mel Wortman died last month at the age of 91, and he was remembered this past weekend at a service in Bremerton by his family and friends for his wit and for his many enduring personal relationships he developed over decades of working at the Puget Sound Naval

Shipyard in Bremerton, and during the years of service to many organizations in our community.

I knew Mel for most of my life. He was a graduate of my mother's high school, and he always joked that he never would have graduated if she hadn't helped him through math class. He was also a great friend of my father, and they were often enjoying their favorite past time, fishing for trout out on Kitsap Lake. In fact, they had a secret formula that I was hoping Mel would have passed on to me.

Mel served in the Navy in World War II before taking a job at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, eventually rising to be superintendent of Shop 31, which was the machine shop.

Mel's personal advice to me ranged from pointers he gave me when I played sports with his sons, Dave and Gary, to the suggestions he offered when I was running for Congress, and later, as a member of the Defense Appropriation Subcommittee, on important things we could do to make the shipyard in Bremerton function better.

Mr. Speaker, Mel Wortman was one of the remaining members of this Greatest Generation of Americans who selflessly served in World War II and then returned home to raise families and pursue their careers without asking for thanks.

I think it is appropriate once again for us in the House of Representatives to express our thanks to those great Americans as we note the passing of one of their finest, Mel Wortman.

I submit for the RECORD Mel Wortman's obituary as it was published in the Kitsap Sun, noting his wife Jane and the many members of his family who have lost a great patriarch.

OBITUARY PUBLISHED IN THE KITSAP SUN,
BREMERTON, WASHINGTON

Melvin David Wortman
July 4, 1920 to March 19, 2012
Veteran

Mel Wortman died at his home on March 19, 2012 surrounded by his family. Mel did a

stint in the Navy during World War II and was a longtime resident who retired from PSNS after working his way up to Superintendent of Shop 31. Well known in Kitsap County, Mel was said to be the go-to-guy in Democratic politics and he headed up numerous political campaigns. Mel had a passion for sports and we're just sure he and son Gary are shooting some hoops in heaven. Mel was a Washington State Park Commissioner for 12 years and prided himself on visiting all of the parks in his beloved state.

Mel loved to share details of his family with anyone who would listen. Jane, his patient and loving wife listened to his stories and jokes for the past 72 years and continues to make her home in Bremerton. The Wortman's oldest son, Dave lives in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho with his wife Chrissy. Son Gary, who was an NBA Scout, is deceased.

Their daughter, Janna and her husband Bob reside in Arizona, while their other son Steve and his wife Cindy live in Tacoma.

Mel was proud of his 11 Grandchildren and 16 'Greats' who filled his life with tremendous joy in his later years. A memorial service will be held for Mel at the Bremerton Elks Lodge on April 22 at 1:00 p.m.

Born on July 4, Mel lived a life dedicated to being a great American, he made a difference in the lives of all who knew him. In lieu of flowers, Jane requests that donations be made to Hospice of Kitsap County at 570 Lebo Blvd. Bremerton, WA 98310.

TAXMAGEDDON, JANUARY 1, 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last week, April 17, was Tax Day, when all hardworking Americans must file their taxes with the Internal Revenue Service. Ironically enough, April 17 was also Tax Freedom Day, the day when Americans earn just about enough earned income to pay off the tax bill for all Federal, State, and local taxes. The first 111 days of the year, everything you and I, and all Americans earn went to fund the United States Federal Government, the same government that wasted \$800,000 on a GSA conference with mind readers, commemorative coins, and bike building

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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